

**To:** Acting Chairman and Authority Members      **Date:** July 20, 2001  
**From:** Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director  
**Subject:** **Agenda Item 7: Department of Transportation Interagency Agreement Approval**

**Discussion**

The Authority noting the uniqueness of the Los Angeles-Orange County-San Diego (LOSSAN) corridor recommended in the Business Plan "...environmental studies along the LOSSAN Corridor also consider improvements to achieve the highest possible speed and capacity improvements consistent with environmental constraints and community support....If high-speed service on this corridor is not feasible, conventional rail should be improved to increase speed and capacity to provide the highest level of service possible.". With this direction the Authority partnered with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in development and implementation of a scope of work for the LOSSAN corridor. The scope of work included a focus on analysis of incremental improvements of the existing LOSSAN rail infrastructure as a "build" alternative for high-speed trains in this corridor.

This partnership with Caltrans has given the Authority the flexibility in the LOSSAN corridor to continue with the program EIR/EIS within the original scope of work with funding assistance from Caltrans. In order to receive funding from Caltrans the Authority will need to execute an Interagency Agreement (IAA). The IAA will include a revised scope of work and cash flow statement, this revised scope is within the original scope of work approved by the Authority and will allow for the preparation of a stand-alone Program document for use by Caltrans as well as technical data needed for the statewide document. As with the Proposition 116 money the Authority is required to seek approval from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Department of Finance for the authorization of the increased budget expenditure authority.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the Authority delegate to the Executive Director the authority to enter into an IAA with Caltrans to continue the program EIR/EIS for the LOSSAN corridor as well as submitting the necessary budget documents to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Department of Finance.